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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/394,661	09/13/1999	MASAAKI TSUJI	2271/60220	4670

7590 11/01/2007
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EXAMINER

RIMELL, SAMUEL G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2164

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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11/01/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/394,661

Applicant(s)

TSUJI, MASAOKI

Examiner

Sam Rimell

Art Unit

2164

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 August 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4 and 8-12 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5-7, 13-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____


SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 5-7 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kawamura et al. (U.S. Patent 6,075,920).

Claim 5: The time code generating portion (9) and the generating portion indicated by the right arrow extending from the control unit (20) are readable as toggle generating portions since they generate subcode components (i.e. “subcode P data”) which are delivered to the subcode encoder (11). The subcode can be said to “toggle” in the sense that it is created by changing a field of bits to a different field of bits. For example, FIG. 18 indicates that the subcode for the track number occupies a field having a length of 2 bytes. The field is inherently changed when the field gets encoded with track number information. Thus, the subcode field containing this information can be said to toggle between an uncoded “low state” and an encoded “high state”. The control unit (20) reads as the selecting portion since it maintains control over the entry of subcode components into the subcode encoder (11).

No patentable weight is attributable to the wherein clause (last paragraph) that the time interval between high and low states is predetermined and regular, since this pertains to the intended usage of the circuit rather than defining physical features of the circuit.

Claim 6: The amount of time required to change from the un-coded state to the encoded state corresponds to the claimed period.

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Claim 7: The control unit is the selecting portion since it maintains control over the entry of subcode components, which in turn generate encoded output which is written to a data recoding medium (19), as seen in FIG. 1.

Claims 13- 14: See remarks for claim 5.

Claim 15: See remarks for claim 6.

Claim 16: See remarks for claim 7.

Claims 3-4 and 8-12 are allowed.

Remarks

Claims 3-4 and 8-12 are allowed. Claims 5-7 and 14-16 are rejected. Applicant's arguments are directed to the period of time in which data toggles between a high state and a low state. Examiner finds that these recited features carry no patentable weight. The claimed invention is directed to a circuit having components which generates data. How that data behaves once it is generated carries no patentable weight, since such features do not define the physical structures of the circuit, but instead, the intended usage of these structures as part of a method of data toggling.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Sam Rimell at telephone number (571) 272-4084.



Sam Rimell
Primary Examiner
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